a fair and non-discriminatory manner to the victims of this violence. Representatives of Indian Missions abroad are in contact with various opinion makers in the local Governments, Parliaments, and media to explain the facts relating to the situation, and to highlight the fact that self-corrective democratic processes are at work to prevent further violence. Various countries have articulated their awareness and understanding of the efforts made by Government in this regard.

Working children

4591. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of working children in the country as per 2001 Census, State-wise;

(b) whether it is provisional or final count;

(c) whether child labour is on increase; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to eliminate the child labbur so as to enable them to enjoy their childhood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Authentic figures of child labour in the country are generated by the decennial census. According to the 1981 census, the estimated figure of working children was 13.6 million whereas the number of working children in the country was of the order of 11.28 million as per 1991 census. The 2001 census figures have not been published.

(d) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. The National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987, which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of ongoing development, programmes for the benefit of child labour and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) have been set up in 100 districts in the country. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment

conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act.

Skill building and training for construction worker

4592. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake a big exercise for skill building and training of construction wrokers during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for training and certification of trained building construction workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Some trades relating to Construction Sector like those of Mason and Plumber etc. are included in the Vocational Training Programmes being conducted by the Industrial Training Institutes/Centres (ITI.s/ITCs). National Trade Certificates are awarded to the successful candidates.

National Skill Development Fund

4593. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindu dated the 14th April, 2002, regarding the Second Labour Commission's recommendations for establishment of a National Skill Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) by when the Commission's recommendations are likely to be received by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The news-item appearing in the